bringing about labour flexibility and generating higher employment opportunities.

**Rescue of bonded child labourers**

2055. SHRI BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 33 bonded child labourers, working for loom holders in Allahabad district, were recently rescued from their clutches; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the alleged offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Decline in regular and self-employment**

2056. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was decline in regular employment and self-employment in the last one or two decades; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to increase the rate of annual employment growth rate in the country which is dwindling every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Estimates of self-employed and regular employed persons as per Labour Force Surveys conducted by

National Sample Survey Organisation in 1983, 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 as per Usual Principle and Subsidiary Status Approach were as follows:—

*Percentage distribution of workers by Category of Employment*

| Year | Self employed % | Regular salaried employed % |
|---|---|---|
| 1983 | 57.4 | 13.9 |
| 1987-88 | 56.0 | 14.4 |
| 1993-94 | 54.8 | 13.2 |
| 1999-2000 | 52.9 | 13.9 |

(b) Ninth Plan has accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan has focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Government have also been implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. The major poverty alleviation programmes, which provide employment in the rural areas, are Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. In the urban areas, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is in operation since 1.12.97, which also seeks to provide gainful employment to the poor. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is being implemented to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in both rural and urban areas.

**Implementation of Construction Workers Welfare Act, 1996**

2057. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether excepting two States *viz.* Tamil Nadu and Kerala, other States have implemented Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Act, 1996 and Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996; and